

International Falcon Dam and Reservoir

OWNER

United States and Mexico. Operated by the International Boundary and Water Commission.

ENGINEER (Design)

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and International Boundary and Water Commission.

LOCATION

On the Rio Grande in Starr County, Texas and Estado de Tamaulipas, Mexico. The dam is 75 miles downstream from Laredo.

DRAINAGE AREA

The total contributing area above the dam is 164,482 square miles, of which 87,760 is in the United States.

DAM

Type	Earthfill and concrete
Length	26,294 ft (10,133 ft in U.S.)
Maximum height	150 ft
Top width	35 ft

SPILLWAY

Type	Concrete ogee section on the U.S. side
Control	6 fixed wheel type gates, each 50 by 50 ft
Crest length (net)	300 ft
Crest elevation	256.7 ft above msl

OUTLET WORKS

2 conduits each nation	72 inch diameter (U.S.) 90 inch diameter (Mexico)
Invert elevation U.S. side	225.0 ft above msl
Invert elevation Mexico side	205.0 ft above msl
Control	Valve on each conduit

POWER GENERATING FEATURES

A powerplant is located on each side of the river.  
Each plant has three 10,500 kw capacity units.

AUTHORIZATION

By the International Boundary and Water Commission - United States and Mexico. The U.S. received 58.6 percent of the conservation storage and Mexico 41.4 percent pursuant to the 1944 Water Treaty.

RESERVOIR DATA (Based on 1956 International Boundary and Water Commission Survey)

FEATURE	ELEVATION (FEET ABOVE MSL)	CAPACITY (ACRE-FEET)	AREA (ACRES)
Top of dam	323.0	—	—
Maximum design flood stage	314.2	4,080,800	115,600
Top of spillway gates	306.7	3,280,700	98,960
Top of conservation storage space *	301.2	2,667,600	87,210
Bottom of power storage space	248.0	258,900	15,580
Invert of lowest outlet (Mexico penstock)	204.34	200	758
Net usable conservation storage	—	2,667,600	—

\* Effective May 31, 1968, when impoundment began in International Amistad Reservoir

GENERAL

Construction started	January 1950
Impoundment began	August 1953
Dam completed	April 1954
General contractor	Joint venture of: C. F. Lytel Co.—Sioux City, Iowa Foley Bros., Inc.—Saint Paul, Minn. Massman Construction Co.—Kansas City, Mo. Tellepsen Construction Co.—Houston, Texas Edward Peterson Co.—Omaha, Neb.

Construction costs			
	United States	Mexico	Total
Dam	\$19,576,500	\$13,830,500	\$33,407,000
Power plants	6,329,000	6,329,000	12,658,000
Totals	25,905,500	\$20 159,500	\$46,065,000

